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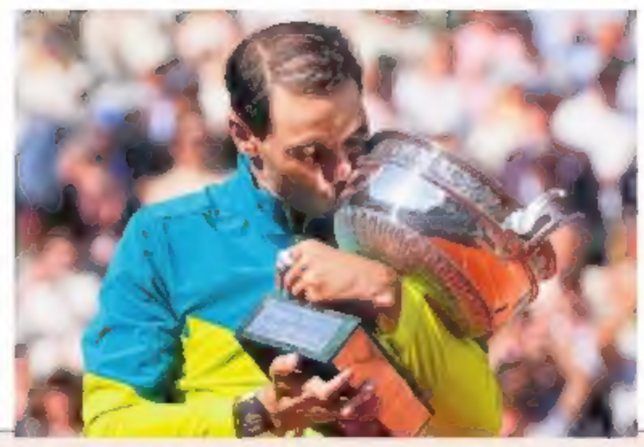

WORLDWIDE	June 4	June 5
Fresh cases	3,962	4,270
Recoveries	2,697	2,619
Deaths	26	15

KARNATAKA	June 4	June 5
Fresh cases	222	301
Recoveries	191	146
Deaths	0	1

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
June 4 10,28,295 doses
June 5 2,41,618 doses
TOTAL: 1,94,01,10,680

CALL IT NADAL OPEN. RAFA WINS IT FOR THE 14TH TIME

Rafael Nadal, who arrived in Paris with an uncertain future due to various reasons, beats Casper Ruud to lift 22nd Major

FROM OUTSIDER TO ANOTHER FRENCH CROWN

Nadal, who revealed that he had to manage a degenerative foot issue (the Mueller Weiss Syndrome), spoke about the pain he was facing throughout the event. In the final, though, he didn't show any of it against the Norwegian, who has developed his game at Nadal's academy. After a shaky first set, the 36-year-old zoomed through the final two sets to win 6-3, 6-3, 6-0

RECORD-BREAKER, HISTORY-MAKER

- With the win, Nadal extended his Slam count to 22, two more than the next best among men (Novak Djokovic & Roger Federer)
- He is yet to lose a French Open final, having won all 14 of his finals on the dirt. Enroute to the title, Nadal had to save one match point against Felix Auger-Aliassime in the 4th round | P13

ONE
1ST TIME NADAL HAS WON BOTH AUSTRALIAN & FRENCH OPENS IN THE SAME YEAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

BJP's loose cannons get the stick for hate speech

Qatar, Kuwait, Iran protest offensive remarks against the Prophet

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

Nupur Sharma

Naveen K Jindal

THE BJP on Sunday sought to douse the communal fire lit by its loose cannons' recent derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammed, by suspending one and expelling the other.

While the party suspended its national spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her offensive comment in a TV debate, it expelled its Delhi media head Naveen Kumar Jindal for his reckless tweets. Nupur later dropped names of the party's senior leadership in another interview, saying they were all with her on the issue, perhaps one reason why the BJP had to distance itself from her.

Also, the hate speech triggered anger in the Arab world with the foreign offices of Qatar, Kuwait and Iran summoning the respective Indian envoys to register their outrage. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, too, condemned the remarks. Deepak Mittal, India's Ambassador in Qatar, was at pains to clarify that the hate speech did not reflect the views of the government, adding it was made by fringe elements.

Aimed at global audience: Omar

"There is a context to the BJP suddenly waking up... This apology of a statement is aimed at an international audience," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said in a tweet

"Ambassador conveyed that the tweets do not, in any manner, reflect the views of the Government of India. These are the views of fringe elements," a spokesperson in Doha said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) pitched in by underscoring India's civilisational heritage and strong cultural traditions of unity in diversity, saying the government accords highest respect to all religions.

"We should work together against such mischievous elements who aim to undercut the strength of our bilateral ties," MEA statement said.

Earlier in the day, BJP general secretary Arun Singh released a signed statement saying the party is against any ideology that insults or demeans any sect or religion. "The BJP respects all religions. The BJP strongly denounces insult of any religious personalities of any religion," the statement read.

The BJP also possibly had elections to a clutch of states on its mind when it decided to use its whiplash. For, the hate speech was threatening to derail the party's outreach to Muslim voters, especially after drawing a decent percentage of votes from Muslim pockets in the UP polls. While poll-bound Gujarat has 9.67% Muslim voters, the corresponding figure in Himachal is 2.18%, Karnataka 12.91% and Rajasthan 9.1%.

Nupur later said, "If my words have caused discomfort or hurt religious feelings of anyone whatsoever, I hereby unconditionally withdraw my statement."

70% Pandit employees flee Valley

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THOUGH the Centre has started shifting Kashmiri Pandit staffers under the PM job scheme in the Valley to various district headquarters in Kashmir in the wake of the recent targeted killings, it has now emerged that about 60-70% of them fled to Jammu in recent weeks. The Pandits wanted transfers to Jammu but the Centre rejected the demand.

Some Pandits say the security situation is worse today than it was in 1990. "This fear was not prevalent in 1990 when the first migration of Pandits took place," said Ranjan, a Kashmiri Pandit employee in Anantnag district. "Due to fear, we are unable to move out from our locations." He said in the 1990s, it was clear who the terrorists were. But today, the situation has changed due to hybrid terrorists—radicalised civilians who carry out attacks while leading normal lives.

He claimed about 60-70% of 5,500 Pandits have left Kashmir. Jagti Tenement Committee Jammu president Shadi Lal confirmed 60-70% of Pandit employees have reached Jammu.

EXPRESS READ

After 3 months, over 300 Covid cases in state

Bengaluru: After a three-month lull, Covid cases in the state crossed the 300-mark on Sunday, while a death was also registered after many days. The state recorded 301 cases on Sunday, of which 291 were from Bengaluru. Covid cases had not breached the 300-mark since March. Also, a 72-year-old woman succumbed to Covid in Bengaluru Urban district.

Jagran Vedike alleges conversion, cops say no

Mangaluru: The Uppinangady police visited a Christian prayer hall in Konalu village near Nelyady of Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday night after the Hindu Jagran Vedike alleged forcible religious conversions there. But Dakshina Kannada SP Rishikesh Sonawane said there were no such attempts. P4

At last, Sir MV terminal to be inaugurated today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru (SMVB) at Baiyappanahalli will be thrown open for passengers on Monday a year after completion by the Constructions Division of the South Western Railway Zone.

The first train to depart from the station is the SMVB-Ernakulam Triweekly Express (Train no. 12684) that will start on Platform One at 7 pm on Monday. The Rs 314-crore station is modelled on the lines of the airport.

"SMVB will have the first air-conditioned entrance lobby in any railway station in the country and runs to 900 sqm," said

The Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal

Divisional Railway Manager Shyam Singh. Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway, E Vijaya said, "It will have the biggest yard in South Western Railway and Southern Railway with 549 routes and state-of-the-art train operation control panel room." P2

HORROR IN HILLS

25 pilgrims feared dead in U'khand bus accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

TWENTY-FIVE passengers of a bus were feared dead and three others critically injured after the vehicle carrying pilgrims from Panna district in Madhya Pradesh fell into a gorge near Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand on Sunday.

The bus bound for Yamunotri had 30 on board, including 28 passengers. The accident took place near Rikhavu khadd on NH 94, Uttarkashi District Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said.

Seventeen bodies have been recovered so far. A search is on for the rest. Three injured passengers have been admitted to the Community Health Centre in Damta. Police and SDRF teams have been rushed to the spot, besides ambulances from Badkot, Nagaon and Nainbagh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the deaths. "The prime minister has announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each from the PMNRF. The injured would be given ₹50,000 each," the PMO said.

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